Only one more week to enjoy the expert tutelage of Gustave Nouel!

Island residents and visitors have enjoyed the opportunity for the last few weeks to learn to paint under the guidance of one of the most highly recognized artists in Europe, Gustave Nouel. A native son of Aruba, he makes his home in Holland during the year, but spends his summer back on the island. Ever energetic and eager for a challenge, Gustave has been lending his talents and knowledge to a number of workshops over the summer. Three days a week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 10:00 AM to noon he can be found giving lessons in basic technique, and then in the late afternoons, providing practical sessions on the beach.

Nouel's works adorn the homes of the members of the Royal House of Oranje, and he is one of the most recognized talents in the art world. He has enormous enthusiasm for encouraging others to discover their artistic talent and express it. The art workshops first focus on basic techniques using "Aruba Painting" as a text, a systematic guide written by Nouel that have even the most novice of artists producing surprising work within one simple workshop. A Wednesday session at the Amsterdam Manor Resort provided a delightful way to witness the sunset for a full class comprised of islanders and visitors, proud to show their completed works, and some going home with a very special souvenir of Aruba.

"I very much enjoy the pleasure it gives individuals when they are inspired," reveals Nouel. "It is surprising what talent is undiscovered, and I find it gratifying when people see what they are capable of, even though they never thought that they could do it."

The aspiring artists showed a wide range of ages, but the results were admirable, no matter their age and experience. Nouel emphasized that the book is a "jumping off point" and encouraged the participants to show originality and self-expression. The painting of Aruba's famed Fofoti tree by Padu and his son-in-law Victor, who are accomplished artists, displayed the strokes of an experienced and experimental virtuoso.

Next week is the last week of classes before Nouel returns to Holland, and will be conducted at the Tamarijn Resort on Tuesday, Amsterdam Manor on Wednesday, and at the Hyatt Aruba Resort on Thursday. Anyone interested in participating can call Multimedia International at telephone number 583-9039 for information. The price of the course includes all materials and the souvenir text, so that painting lessons and inspiration can continue long after leaving the island!